FLOOD

A Flood is defined as an accumulation of water that exceeds a physical barrier or collects in a low-lying area that leads to the inundation of an area. Flooding typically results from large scale weather systems that generate prolonged or highly impactful rainfall. Other conditions such as winter snow thaws, oversaturated soil, ice jams breaking apart, and urbanization can cause flooding as well. Howard County can be impacted by several types of flooding including Areal, Flash, and River.

HAS IT HAPPENED LOCALLY?

The National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) indicates that there were 78 Flood events in Howard County from 1996 to 2019. The two most significant Flash Flood events occurred on July 30, 2016, when a strong storm dropped six inches of rain over Ellicott City over a span of two hours, and then again on May 28, 2018. These events took three lives and caused extensive damage to businesses and homes in Historic Ellicott City.
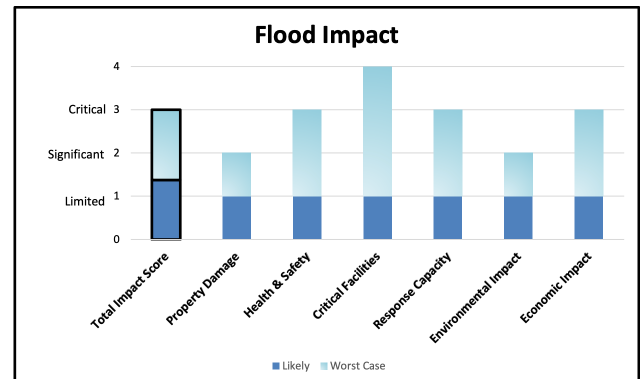
WHAT IS THE ONGOING RISK?

There is an expected 11-30%+ **Chance of Annual Occurrence** of a Flood in Howard County. In the most likely Flood scenario, the **Total Impact is considered Limited-Significant**. In the worst-case scenario, the **Total Impact is considered Critical.**

DID YOU KNOW?

• During the Flood event of 1868, witness reports say that the Patapsco River rose 30 feet in only 30 minutes.
• The 2016 Flash Flooding Event caused extensive damages to 90 businesses and 107 homes and caused at least $22.4 million in estimated damages.
• Flooding from Tropical Storm Agnes in 1972 caused $44.76 million (inflation adjusted) in property damage and is one of the most destructive flooding events in recent history.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

• Howard County Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
• National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
• Ready.gov

Flood Impact

Legend: ■ Likely ■ Worst Case

Flood Risk Profile

	Risk Assessment Category	Likely Hazard Scenario	Worst-Case Hazard Scenario	Weight
LIKELIHOOD	Likelihood	3.6 Likely-Very Likely		50%
CONSEQUENCE	Impact	1.3 Limited-Significant	3 Critical	40%
CONSEQUENCE	Warning Time	4 Short	1 Very Long	5%
CONSEQUENCE	Duration	1 Short	3 Long	5%
	TOTAL RISK SCORE	**2.5**	**3.2**	

Risk Matrix

Flood Hazard Most Likely Scenario (2.5)
Flood Hazard Worst Case Scenario (3.2)

LIKELIHOOD: VERY LIKELY 4 / LIKELY 3 / INFREQUENT 2 / UNLIKELY 1
CONSEQUENCE: 1 LIMITED / 2 SIGNIFICANT / 3 CRITICAL / 4 CATASTROPHIC